

lives will be saved,” which is the spirit of the Komen Foundation. “Because of the work we do today, other lives will be saved.”

Approximately one in seven women in the United States will develop breast cancer over her lifetime. That means more than 200,000 women will be diagnosed this year. This Government is committed to helping find a cure for breast cancer, and it must be. The Department of Health and Human Services is spending \$900 million on breast cancer research and preventative activities. I want to thank the Members of Congress for your strong support.

My budget has proposed an increase for next year as well. The budget includes \$220 million for an early detection program, promotes mammography use, and helps low-income women afford screenings for breast cancer and cervical cancer. It also includes 768 million to aid breast cancer researchers at the National Institutes of Health. NIH is now conducting the largest trial ever of new early detection technologies. This effort will help doctors target breast cancer at its most treatable stage. Early detection is essential. We’re going to continue to work with the Congress to make sure that there is increased access to screening services.

This country is making progress on women’s health issues, and I appreciate the leadership of Tommy—Tommy Thompson

at the Health and Human Services. Recently, the Komen Foundation honored Tommy—it says here, Secretary Thompson—[*laughter*]—Secretary Tommy Thompson—[*laughter*]—with the Women’s Health Advocate Award for his work in the area of breast cancer. I know you’re proud of him, and so am I.

Secretary Thompson, I will continue to stand by you in your cause. We’ll not rest. We’ll work to make sure that we do everything we can to help save lives.

The National Race for the Cure is an inspiring example. It’s a good example for a lot of others to watch. It’s an example of courage and hope and faith, and I want to thank you for your involvement.

Have a great race this June. I wish I could join you. [*Laughter*] God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 4:38 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Nancy Goodman Brinker, founding chair, Susan Braun, president and chief executive officer, and LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., chairman of the board, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation; and Sue Ann Thompson, wife of Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady, who introduced the President.

Statement on the Elections in South Africa *April 21, 2004*

I congratulate President Thabo Mbeki on South Africa’s third democratic national election and his party’s election victory. The United States also congratulates the people of South Africa as they celebrate on April 27 the 10th anniversary of freedom and democracy replacing apartheid rule. The United States welcomes the peaceful exer-

cise of democracy demonstrated by the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa. All competing parties deserve recognition for playing their role in a multiparty democracy. We commend their acceptance of the outcome and their use of the legal system and the rule of law to resolve disputes.

Remarks on Earth Day in Wells, Maine April 22, 2004

So great to be here, thanks. Gosh, my outlook improved dramatically the minute I stepped on this beautiful piece of land. Thanks for having me, and thanks for coming out to say hello. It's my honor to celebrate Earth Day with you in a State that I know pretty darn well, in a State that I love, in an area that I now realize I know well because it was right off the beach here that old Number 41 and I liked to try to catch striped bass. *[Laughter]* It's a pretty good place to fish around here.

Before I start going on too long about Mother Earth, I do want to recognize my mother on Earth. Thanks for coming, Mom. I hope you're up the road making my bed. *[Laughter]*

Earth Day has become a great tradition in our country. It's a day that reminds us that we must be good stewards of the land around us. That's what this day says to us, and we're lucky to live in America, because we're blessed with such unbelievable lands. As the President, I'm fortunate to be able to travel and see a lot of our beautiful Nation, whether it be from the—from Maine to the Big Sur in California or parts of the great State of Texas that are beautiful to look at too.

The importance about Earth Day is, is that it reminds us that we can't take the natural wonders for granted. That's what Earth Day says to me, and I hope it says to you as well that we have responsibilities to the natural world to conserve that which we have and to make it even better. That's the call for Earth Day. In the years since Earth Day was established, America has made great strides in honoring the ideal of conservation and living by high standards of stewardship. We've made tremendous progress during the last 4 years. I have a responsibility as the President to put people in an administration that understands

the importance of conserving our natural resources and making them better.

My administration has put in place some of the most important antipollution policies in a decade, policies that have reduced harmful emissions, reclaimed brownfields, cut phosphorus releases into our rivers and streams. Since 2001, the condition of America's land, air, and water has improved.

Today I want to talk about wetlands. The old policy of wetlands was to limit the loss of wetlands. Today I'm going to announce a new policy and a new goal for our country. Instead of just limiting our losses, we will expand the wetlands of America.

I appreciate Paul very much. He's a—obviously a good manager. First of all, he loves what he does. He cares deeply about the mission. He's got such a joyous smile on his face that he must be an easy fellow to work with. And I want to thank him for his hospitality. He didn't even complain about the size of my entourage or the imposition that we must have imposed on Paul and his great staff. I also want to thank the staff for working hard to make sure this slice of heaven is as beautiful as possible.

I appreciate so very much State Senator Paul Davis joining us today—Senator. Yes, thanks for coming. I suspect there are some local officials who are here. Thanks for being here. I like to remind local officials to make sure that you empty the garbage and fill the potholes. *[Laughter]*

I had the honor of meeting Ray and Becky Davis at the airport. They're local citizens. The reason I bring up Ray and Becky is because they're the parents of three sons who are now wearing the uniform of the United States Military. *[Applause]* Sergeant Graham Davis, Marine Corps, thank you, sir; Private First Class Stuart Davis, who is now in Afghanistan—make sure, Graham, that you—make sure